

The Coca-Cola Company
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DONATION IN NIGER BRINGS RELIEF

A generous donation by The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation helps to provide much needed equipment to a community hospital.

NIGER, Feb. 5, 2010 -- The Kirker Hospital, in Maine-Soroa, Niger is a 145-bed hospital that provides healthcare to patients from Niger, Nigeria and Chad. It is a collaborative mission-based project between the Kirker Foundation and Adventist Health International. However, despite the need for in-patient care, a shortage of medical staff and equipment has limited the number of patients the team there can accommodate and treat effectively.

But this situation changed significantly in February when The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) funded a \$250,000 shipment of medical equipment and supplies. MedShare, TCCAF's implementing partner for this project, sourced the equipment for the hospital.

The supplies started their journey in Atlanta, Georgia, USA and arrived in Niamey, Niger, on 5 February. At a reception held at the Coca-Cola warehouse, the Niger Minister of Health, Hassan Nouhou, thanked MedShare and all who took part in bringing these much needed supplies to the country.

The shipment was then transported to its final destination in Maine-Soroa where Dr Kirker, the founder of the Kirker Hospital, explained the complex logistics of delivering a shipment of this size and type to a remote place like Maine where it is desperately needed. MedShare and Coca-Cola were both praised for their role in bringing this container to Maine-Soroa and the Kirker Hospital.

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Immediate results

These new supplies are already making a significant difference to the quality of patient care at the hospital and account for more than half of the supplies used daily.

The supplies are made up of three different types of equipment: general medical supplies including IV catheters, gloves, gauze, bandages, sponges, tape, respiratory equipment and the like; orthopedic equipment and surgical supplies.

Along with the large amount of medical supplies that were donated to the hospital, numerous other useful and important items were included in the shipment too.

For example, the cafeteria received plastic bowls, bottles and trays for use in patient nutrition and the pediatric unit, plastic bottles for measuring the special formula necessary for malnourished patients.

There were also two hand-operated bikes which have been donated to men from the village who have no use of their lower body but are able to use their upper body for peddling. These, along with a donation of toys to the pediatric unit, have greatly improved the spirits of patients and the local community.

Other projects

TCCAF also supports other programs in the areas of water, health education and entrepreneurship and recently launched a new water initiative in Niger too.

This program will support the development of a sustainable, community-based distribution network for Aquatabs, a chlorine-based household water purification tablet that can purify 20 to 25 liters of water for 24 hours. This distribution network is expected to benefit 115,000 recipients in 14,375 households. Distribution operations will be based on a behavior change communication strategy and the involvement of a continuously-growing network of rural women, community health workers, distribution agents, and communication for change workers.

In brief

The Kirker Hospital offers the following services:

- Two outpatient clinics see general maladies and illnesses including malaria, tuberculosis, abdominal and epigastric ailments, dermatologic problems, tumor growths and a host of other medical problems.
- A surgical outpatient clinic focuses on possible medical problems requiring surgical intervention. Two functioning surgical suites allow for general surgeries, c-sections and limited orthopedic surgery due to trauma. A post surgical recovery and surgical unit houses those patients needing surgical intervention. A trauma room cares for non surgical trauma patients.

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About The Coca-Cola Company

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation was created in 2001 to manage the community investments of the Coca-Cola System in Africa. Over the last nine years, it has invested substantially in the areas of education, health and the environment; and continues to partner with credible institutions, leveraging the Coca-Cola System's unparalleled manufacturing and distribution network, to access some of Africa's most remote locations for community development and numerous disaster relief efforts across the continent. In collaboration with Coca-Cola Ghana, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation funds and implements projects across Ghana aimed at enabling communities and touching lives.

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